

Message Text

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44

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 EUR-25 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03

INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

SS-20 USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-14 OMB-01 DRC-01 /150 W

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R 250845Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7901

INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA

AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

USMISSION UN

USDOCOSOUTH

EUCOM

C O N F I D E N T I A L NICOSIA 2180

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT CY

SUBJECT: VIOLENCE WRAP UP

REF: NICOSIA 1951, 1982

SUMMARY: GOVT CONTINUES PRESSURE ON GRIVAS CAMP. ARCHBISHOP AND PIO DECLAIM PERIODICALLY AGAINST VIOLENCE FROM ALL QUARTERS, BUT SO FAR NO INDICATION THAT GOVT MOVING TO RESTRAIN ITS OWN PARAMILITARY SUPPORTERS. GRIVASISTS ARE NOT RESPONDING (PERHAPS CANNOT RESPOND) MILITARILY, BUT MORALE AND DEFIANCE REMAIN HIGH. GOVT ABRUPTLY CANCELLED TRADITIONAL "OKHI" PARADE, PROBABLY REFLECTING CONTINUING CONCERN OVER DANGER OF VIOLENCE OR ASSASSINATION. END SUMMARY.

1. GOVT CONTINUES PRESSURE CAMPAIGN OF ARRESTS, INDICTMENTS, TRIALS. POLICE SOURCES TELL US THAT NICOSIA CENTRAL PRISON NOW CONTAINS SOME 160 POLITICAL PRISONERS, OF WHICH 20 ALREADY CONVICTED. RIGHTISTS HAVE COMPLAINED
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BITTERLY AT MALTREATMENT OF DETAINEES, APPARENTLY WITH

SOME JUSTIFICATION.

2. IN NICOSIA CENTRAL PRISON, NUMBER PRISONERS AND GUARDS INJURED IN PUNCH UP IN EARLY MORNING OCT 19. PIO STATED THAT AUTHORITIES UNDERTOOK TO DISPERSE POLITICAL PRISONERS TO FORESTALL PLANNED ESCAPE ATTEMPT.

3. IN OCT 20 RAID ON GRIVAS MOUTHPIECE "ETHNIKI," UNIDENTIFIED ARMED GROUP DISRUPTED OPERATIONS, AND PAPER FAILED TO APPEAR THAT DAY. PRESS, INCLUDING ULTRA LEFT "TA NEA" AND COMMUNIST "HARAVGHI," HAS CONDEMNED RAID. (PIO HAS EXPLICITLY DENIED PRESS STORIES THAT GREEK AMB RAISED PRISON AND "ETHNIKI" INCIDENTS WITH ARCHBISHOP.) PIO CONDEMNED VIOLENCE BUT REMARKED ON CHANGE IN TUNE BY GROUPS WHICH HAD IN PAST SUPPORTED ATTACKS ON POLICE STATIONS AND OTHER VIOLENCE. EVEN CENTRIST "AGON" NOTED THAT "ETHNIKI" IS PRINTED ADJACENT TO HEAVILY GUARDED ARCHBISHOPIC, EXPRESSED PUZZLEMENT AT EASE WITH WHICH RAID CARRIED OFF.

4. BOTH ARCHBISHOP AND PIO CONTINUE PLEDGE ACTION TO CURB VIOLENCE FROM ANY QUARTER, BUT PRO GOVT IRREGULARS APPARENTLY CONTINUE ACTIVITY UNIMPEDED.

5. GRIVASIST FORCES INACTIVE, EXCEPT FOR ALLEGED ASSASSINATION PLANS AND AGIOS SERGIOS ATTEMPT, WHOSE VALIDITY REMAINS MOOT. GRIVAS LEAFLET OCT 24 WARNED OF UNSPECIFIED REPRISALS IF VIOLENT ACTIONS AGAINST ENOSIST CAMP CONTINUE. (YOUTH KILLED OCT 12 IN LIMASSOL DISTRICT APPARENTLY RESULT OF INFIGHTING AMONG PRO-GOVT PARAMILITARY GROUPS.) GOVT CONCERN AT POSSIBILITY OF VIOLENCE OR ASSASSINATION ATTEMPT AGAINST ARCHBISHOP REFLECTED, HOWEVER, IN OCT 20 DECISION TO CANCEL TRADITIONAL OCT 28 "OKHI DAY" PARADE, AND IN VISIBLE INCREASE IN SECURITY AROUND ARCHBISHOP.

6. DESPITE GOVT PRESSURES AND ROUGH HANDLING, GRIVASISTS HAVE GIVEN RECENT SIGNS OF NEW ASSERTIVENESS -- ORGANIZED DEFIANCE BY PRISONERS IN NICOSIA PRISON, THEIR CONTINUED REFUSAL APPEAR IN COURT, MARCH OF PRISONERS WIVES OVER WEEKEND -- AND HAVE ENLISTED SOME EDITORIAL SUPPORT AGAINST GOVT.

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7. COMMENT: GOVT POLICE SUCCESSES HAVE DIMINISHED ARMED THREAT TO MAKARIOS. WE ANTICIPATE MORE HECKLING FROM THE RIGHT, DEMANDING STERN MEASURES AGAINST TURKISH "SEPARATISM," AS STALEMATE OF INTERCOMMUNAL TALKS BECOMES MANIFEST.
GRANT

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